



Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council Minutes

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON:

October 17, 2006

2:00 PM

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Headquarters
645 New London Ave. – Cranston, RI
Classroom A

Attending:

Lt. Governor Charles J. Fogarty, Chairman
Christopher R. Albert, Office of Lt. Governor
MG Robert Bray, RI National Guard
Robert Warren, Director, EMA
Namvar Moghadam, RIDOT
Ray LaBelle, E911
Al Arujo, Pawtucket EMA
Captain Roy Nash, USCG
Leo Kennedy, Cranston Fire
Dawn Lewis, HARI
Thomas Kilday, RI HEALTH
Joseph Salter, TSA
Tom McMillan, Exeter EMA
George Farrell, State Fire Marshal
Lt. David Hayden, RI State Police
Paul Stasiuk, National Grid
James Lanni, RIPUC
George Milner, RI SATERN
Lori Needham, RIBA
Leo Messier, Prov. EMA

Angie Moncada, Red Cross
Janice McClanaghan, RIOER
Mike McDonough, TSA/ Rail, Boston
Tom Walsh, TSA Rail, Boston
John Wheeler, No. Prov. Fire
Chief Paul Labbadia, Johnston Fire
Richard R. Blott, Cong. Langevins office
Nancy Smith Greer, US Dept. HUD
George J. Hickey, CCRI
Armand Randolph, RIEMA
Lawrence Grimaldi, DEA
Brian Pires, US Attorney's ATAC
Nathan Rodgers, RIEMA
Bob Thorne, TSA
Senator Elizabeth Roberts
Joe Cournoyor, RIEMA
Patricia Ryan, JFHQ-RI
Paul Peltier, 13th WMC CST
Steven Kenney, NUWC
Michael DiMascolo, Fire Marshal Office
Diana Arcand, RIEMA

I. Approval of the minutes from September 19, 2006

Meeting was Called to order 2:05 p.m. Motion was made to approve minutes. The Council approved the minutes of September 19, 2006.

II. Introduction

A. Comments from the Chairman, Lt. Governor Charles J. Fogarty

Chairman Fogarty announced information regarding Operation Holiday Cheer, the annual state event to send packages to the troops serving overseas. Items will be collected on Oct. 21st and mailed on October 28th. He encouraged members to submit any names of RI soldiers that are serving overseas. Nearly 4,500 packages have been sent since 2003.

B. Comments from the Vice-Chairman, MG Robert Bray.

MG Bray spoke about the National Defense Authorization Act which has given the President the authority to mobilize the National Guard for any kind of contingency without going through the Governor or Adjutant Generals. MG Bray stated that this will have a significant impact to our National Guard. MG Bray also stated that there is money that will be coming to the states for construction and equipment, and that he and his staff are working to ensure that Rhode Island gets its fair share of funds.

On the national scene, MG Bray explained that DHS and FEMA are in process of reorganizing and defining roles. In general, the separation of duties and responsibilities is the goal. DHS is in preparation and planning mode and FEMA will pick up response and recovery responsibilities. These decisions will have a significant impact on how we go forward with Emergency Management in Rhode Island, the General stated.

The General announced that a press conference would occur on Friday that would unveil a communications system at Camp Fogarty. The system will give an added capability to interoperable communications. The Joint Interoperability Service Communications System will bring a great deal of additional communications capability to the state.

The General also announced that Armand Randolph, public affairs representative will be leaving Rhode Island to take the position of National Guard Liaison in the Bahamas. The State Partnership program for RI is with the Bahamas and has become a model program across the nation. He will be there for 2 years to be liaison from State Department and National Guard.

III. Port Security Update- U.S. Coast Guard

Captain Nash of the U.S. Coast Guard informed the council on his role in port security as the Federal Maritime Security Coordinator. The Area Maritime Security Committee has been meeting quarterly since February 2004. The Committee is comprised of Federal State and Local agencies and representatives from the maritime industry from both RI and MA. The Committee assists in the development, review, and update of area maritime security plans, and assists with a comprehensive strategic view of maritime security in the area and ensures the coordination of efforts between the two states.

Last meeting on October 2nd, discussed communication technology. Captain Nash stated that the Coast Guard will be taking advantage of local investments in the 800mhz radio system and have procured 800mhz radios.

Captain Nash is working with emergency management agencies in RI and MA with web EOC software which assists communication and coordination with routine and emergency operations.

The Coast Guard also has web page which is a one stop shopping for Coast Guard port information. The site is secure and allows partners to access and gain information. The system will soon have alerting features so there will be an alarm to get messages to interested partners.

Captain Nash stated that next summer Tall ships RI 2007 will be coming to Rhode Island. This will provide a great opportunity to utilize and test the communications technology. The group is also looking to making use of the opportunity for credit exercise for the Area Maritime Security Committee.

Captain Nash stated that \$4.5M has been granted to RI through various grants for port security. Captain Nash also announced that there is going to be a National Conference on Homeland Security Planning and Program Implementation in Washington in November 28th – 30th and that the Coast Guard will be sending a representative.

In addition, Captain Nash reported that the Safe Port Act was signed and there will be regulations developed around that law.

Chairman Fogarty inquired about the status of the Motiva incident after action report.

Captain Nash responded that there was no specific timetable. Captain Nash responded that the Coast Guard's report was very detailed and meticulous because they evaluate the cause and what implications there may be for national changes in regulations as necessary. The Coast Guard has worked in cooperation with the Providence Fire Dept. gathering of facts regarding the incident. The final report is approved by the Coast Guard chain of command in Washington, DC.

Captain Nash stated the committee has created a Marine Firefighting Sub Committee that will be within the Area Committee so they are not waiting for the report to take a look at and review their capabilities.

Chairman Fogarty inquired about recent funding for Port Security and that Rhode Island did not receive any funding for this year. He asked Captain Nash if this would significantly impact our port security initiatives.

Captain Nash- responded that the lack of funding will not effect their ability to meet standards. The Coast Guard will continue to conduct port security patrols and hold Area Maritime Security Committee meetings and continue to work with partners to develop technology communications.

Lt. Governor Fogarty added that Rhode Island did receive buffer zone security funds.

IV. Rail Security Advisory Workgroup-

Joseph Salter, TSA

Brian Pires, U.S. Attorney's Office

Joseph Salter stated that on June 28th there was a rail security forum and that on October 6th the first Rail Security Working Group meeting took place at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick.

Attending the meeting were the RI Congressional Delegation, the Lt. Governor, Mayors, the law enforcement community, first responders, industry representatives, US. Attorney, federal, state and local representatives. Mr. Salter reported that rail systems are tough to deal with, airports fairly confined fenced in areas, rail is on ground and spans across the whole country. The working groups focus is on preventing an attack from taking place, developing tactics, techniques, strategies, and methods to deal with threats on rail. The group will be setting up a meeting schedule and creating sub-groups to deal with all contingencies related to rail security.

Brian Pires added to the importance of the working group and the importance of local law enforcement and first responder training in rail security. Mr. Pires stated that we need to be thinking about rail security daily and really work with the many different stakeholders.

V. 13 WMD Civil Support Team Update- Lt. Col. Paul Peltier

LT. Col. Peltier gave an update on the 13th WMD Civil Support team. LTC Peltier stated that the team was nationally certified on 24 JULY. They are 100% manned and have completed all training to become certified. Equipment availability is 100%, medical inoculations are nearly 100%, and the team continues to train aggressively daily.

Chairman Fogarty asked what the process was to activate the 13th WMD CST.

LTC Peltier stated that the team can be activated if an event occurs which cannot be handled by first responders in the community and it surpasses local capacity. The group can be activated by a call to EMA who will go through the Guard to activate the team. LTC Peltier stated that all members of the team are soldiers, active guard and reserve, so they are available 24/7 at no cost to the state. The team is staffed at a minimum level to maintain operations 24/7 365, LTC Peltier stated.

VI. School Security Measures- Robert Warren, RIEMA

Nathan Rogers, Armand Randolph, and Citizens Corps. Gave an update on School Security measures taking place in Rhode Island. They reported that a program sponsored by NOAH is currently distributing all hazard Noah weather radios to public schools. All public schools in RI will be receiving radios in next 4-6 weeks.

Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Randolph spoke on the School & Childcare Emergency Preparedness Project and handed out a presentation on the initiative. In addition, the group viewed the School Emergency Procedure Guide that EMA has produced for schools throughout the state.

Mr. Randolph stated that the Governor had held a Governor's Safe School Summit on October 10th.

Lt. Hayden added that the State Police have reached out to the Secrete Service to mutually adopt a training program that will cover building physical integrity, faculty training, and integrating response plans with local police departments. The State Police plan to send troopers to training programs with secret service for this initiative.

VII. Winter Weather Preparations – Dept. of Transportation

Namvar Moghadam updated the Council on the Department of Transportation's plans for Winter Weather preparation. Mr. Moghadam stated that the two companies contracted to help to forecast the weather for DOT met yesterday and they reported that this season will bring a high number of events but the severity of the storms will be low and backed up by rain. Mr. Moghadam reported that preparations are underway: There are over 100 trucks from DOT that are being serviced and sanders are being installed to respond to icing situations and vendors are being signed up. On average 400-450 vendors supply equipment to supplement the DOT trucks. Mr. Moghadam stated that materials have been ordered. At end of last year there was a surplus of 29,000, if an event occurred now, DOT has material to deal with the situation. DOT will top off to capacity of 43,000, and salt will be delivered to 22 stockpiles that the state works out of. DOT has also integrated communication with National Guard and vendors.

Chairman Fogarty asked about the contingency if local public works departments run out of materials

Mr. Moghadam stated that the local city and towns piggyback on bid the Administration puts out and will provide the locals with emergency supply if needed. By November 15th DOT will be fully equipped, plows on, sanders on, and vendors will be assigned to assignment groups.

VIII. Homeland Security Report- *MG Robert Bray*

MG BRAY gave a Homeland Security report and stated that he sits on a grant sub committee for the National Governors Association Homeland Security Committee, which recently met with Deputy Secretary for DHS to discuss their reorganizing and relationships with state homeland security directors. The group also discussed ways to better communicate between federal agency and state agencies to be well informed and work together on initiatives. MG Bray stated that the meeting also centered on how next year's round of grants will be applied for and prioritized. MG Bray stated that he was waiting for a response on what this years metrics will be and what will be changed from last year and year before. MG Bray stated that EMA will send people to the training session to learn about the grant application process.

MG Bray stated that he is working with the Rhode Island Congressional team to ensure that the state's interests are well represented in grant process and providing input on how the process works. MG Bray stated that grant funding will be top priority and that RI has always faired in the lower 25% nationwide.

MG Bray also stated that EMA has to plan a contingency if federal dollars do not materialize and that regional planning will play a major role. The Adjutant Generals of the 8 New England States continue to discuss and collaborate on planning and response and will take a greater look at what the EMAC Compact provides for us and also the new implications of the new Defense Authorization Act.

MG Bray also stated EMA's strategic objectives:

#1 Priority by State DHS Directors and DHS federal is need for interoperable communications. Full implementation will take a partnership with DHS, State, and Local agencies to make interoperability possible. \$3m will be put in next year to put in backbone across the state. Next will be providing capability to municipalities, next to individual radios to responders.

#2 Inter-agency integration of command and control.

Continued training and exercising of National incident management system. RIEMA is helping coordinate training requirements that will be looked at by DHS as a funding measure.

Director Warren urged local municipalities that more public works personnel need to apply for training.

#3 Creating a state of the art EOC.

The newly completed EOC is first class, however EMA still needs to continue to work towards a facility that will accommodate all needs of EMA to handle a major disaster.

MG Bray stated that he has also reorganized at the headquarters level and now has a special staff officer to work on legislative issues on the Congressional and State levels.

IX. Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee Report – Robert Warren, RIEMA

Director Warren stated that the Domestic Preparedness Sub-Committee working groups continue to meet. A major priority of the group was to allocate the federal funding to the response teams throughout the state.

Director Warren stated that there was an earthquake in Hawaii and that EMA's notification system did operate effectively in notifying RI officials about the event.

The Director also stated that National Grid has deployed crews and engineers to assist Buffalo, NY to recover from the recent winter storm. 230,000 customers were out at the height of storm due to heavy snow and winds, and the crews are anticipated to return on Sunday.

X. Energy Update – Janice McClanaghan, RI Energy Office

Janice McClanaghan provided the Council with an energy update.

	<i>Oct. 16th</i>	<i>1 Week ago</i>	<i>1 Yr. ago</i>
Crude Oil	\$59.88	\$59.55	\$62.61
Natural Gas	\$5.13	\$4.41	\$12.80
<i>Terminals reporting weekly are Global, Inland, Sprague, and Motiva. Motiva received its first barge delivery on Friday afternoon. Mobil no longer provides heating oil in RI.</i>			
<i>Prices:</i>			
	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Last Week</i>	<i>Last Year</i>
Reg. unleaded Self Serve	\$2.219	\$2.24	\$2.70
Reg. Unleaded Full Serve	\$2.399	\$2.40	\$2.86
Home Heating Oil	\$2.399	\$2.38	\$2.59
<i>Range:</i>	<i>High \$2.209</i>		
	<i>Low \$2.499</i>		
Diesel	\$2.716	\$2.73	\$2.99

In addition, Ms. McClanaghan stated that EFP is looking to hire 2 temporary positions, scheduled to start November 1st or earlier depending on the weather. In addition, RIOER is working with National Grid on developing a gas and electric plan for low income from legislation passed last session.

Ms. McClanaghan stated that RI may receive about \$13.4 M LIHEAP for the coming year. Along with the funds carried forward from the spring and Summer release, RI should be able to assist up to 27,000 families this winter. In addition, CITGO operated by Citizens Energy, will offer a 60/40 rate through oil dealers beginning on November 1st.

XI. New Business/ Comments and/or Suggestions

LT. Hayden provided the Council with an Amber Alert Update. Lt. Hayden stated that there was one recent alert in Kentucky. Currently there are no Active Amber Alerts. Lt. Hayden also extended an invitation to the Council to an Amber Alert event sponsored by the North Kingstown Post Office for the new Amber Alert Stamp being released nationally on November 3rd.

Tom Kilday gave an update on Pandemic Flu Planning. Mr. Kilday stated that on November 9th there will be a meeting to discuss ethics regarding pandemic flu and on the 21st of November there will be a pandemic flu tabletop exercise focusing on community containment. Mr. Kilday also informed the council that the Hospital Preparedness Planning Committee has created a web-based hospital capacity system that indicates status, bed counts, and hospital alerts. The system also has a calendar to coordinate and communicate training exercises. Mr. Kilday also stated that satellite phones will be functional and operational in all of the hospitals on November 1st, and will include continual training. The system will connect all 4 regional dispatch centers plus Providence through satellite phones. The next step will be to deploy the phones in to all health centers in the upcoming grant year.

XII. Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.